

Judit Rozenberszky Dobai
52 Tiffany Drive
Windsor, CT 06095

March 10, 2009

Governor Jodi Rell
Executive Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

I am writing to implore you to reconsider your proposal to eliminate funding for Dial-A-Ride Programs which are an absolutely essential service to seniors and other disabled persons.

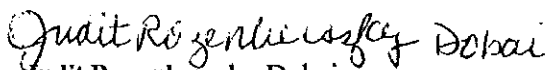
Frankly, I was saddened to learn that this program is slated for cut backs and/or elimination. Dial-A-Ride provides essential transportation services to seniors and other disabled persons who may not otherwise have access to public or private transportation. The services provided afford this population viable solutions for mobility and independence, while at the same time providing peace of mind to their families who have desperately sought alternative transportation for their loved ones, while they continue to juggle demands of their jobs as well as care for their family members.

On a personal level, without Dial-A-Ride services, my mother would not only be house bound, but in all likelihood, would not be able to receive the essential medical services she requires. My siblings and I have all taken many days off from work to provide transportation to her appointments, as well as emergency treatments. My mother has been unable to drive for the past few years due to medical conditions. Taking numerous days off from work, particularly in today's economy, places us all in vulnerable positions when our employers are faced with workforce reductions. We cannot afford to end up as another unemployment statistic in the state.

My mother has been through extremely difficult physical and emotional adjustments since our father passed away several years ago. Dial-A-Ride has enabled my mother to obtain the essential medical care that she requires and also provides her with greater access to the community and friends. The new friends that she has found at the Senior Center have significantly improved the quality of her life.

I can understand that these are extremely difficult and challenging times and tough decisions need to be made, but surely there are other solutions rather than targeting our elderly and disabled populations. I respectfully request your reconsideration of your proposal to discontinue funding of this valuable program that affords our loved ones and friends with critical transportation solutions for medical needs and an enhanced social life in their communities.

Sincerely,


Judit Rozenberszky Dobai